

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SAM-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10 AID-05 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03

TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01

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R 151735Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3655

INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMCONSUL LUANDA

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 BRUSSELS 3342

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR BE CG AO

SUBJECT: VISIT OF AMBASSADOR MULCAHY; BELGIAN-ZAIRIAN RELATIONS;
ANGOLA AND CABINDA

REF: KINSHASA 2727

1. SUMMARY. DURING VISIT OF DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY
MULCAHY, BELGIAN OFFICIALS COMMENTED ON ZAIRE AND PORTUGUESE
TERRITORIES. RECENT BELGIAN-ZAIRIAN MEETING IN MALAGA
WAS FIRST STEP IN RENEWAL OF DIALOGUE BETWEEN TWO SIDES AND TOOK
PLACE AFTER DISPATCH OF BELGIAN EMISSARY TO KINSHASA.
ZAIRIANS ARE FAILING TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF 700 MILLION BF
IN BELGIAN CREDITS. DISSATISFACTION WITH MOBUTO REPORTEDLY
EXPRESSED BY ZAIRIAN GENERAL. BELGIANS HAVE REPORTS
OF ANGOLAN LIBERATION TROOP MOVEMENTS. GOB SEES FACTORS
MILITATING AGAINST ZAIRIAN OR CONGO-BRAZZAVILLE MOVE TO TAKE
OVER CABINDA. END SUMMARY.

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2. DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR AFRICAN AFFAIRS
MULCAHY MET WITH AFRICA DIRECTOR LEBRUN AND OTHER

FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICERS APRIL 11 FOR GENERAL DISCUSSION ON AFRICA. CONVERSATION CENTERED ON ZAIRE AND PORTUGUESE TERRITORIES. FOLLOWING POINTS OF INTEREST EMERGED.

3. ZAIRIAN COMMISSIONER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS BULA AND DIRECTOR OF OFFICE OF PRESIDENCY BISENGIMANA FLEW TO MALAGA, SPAIN TO MEET WITH BELGIAN PRIME MINISTER TINDEMANS AND FOREIGN MINISTER VAN ELSLANDE APRIL 3 OR 4. (TINDEMANS AND VAN ELSLANDE BOTH HAVE RESIDENCES ON COAST OF SPAIN AND WERE THERE FOR HOLIDAY. CHARLES KERREMANS, BELGIAN AMBASSADOR TO ZAIRE WAS ALSO IN SPAIN, AS GUEST OF AMBASSADOR VAES IN MADRID, BUT APPARENTLY DID NOT PARTICIPATE AT MALAGA.) LEBRUN SAID MEETING WAS SIGNIFICANT IN THAT IT AMOUNTED TO PRELUDE TO RENEWED DIALOGUE. ZAIRIANS LISTED OUTSTANDING GRIEVANCES AGAINST BELGIUM BUT INDICATED WILLINGNESS TO CONTINUE CONTACTS TO WORK OUT PROBLEMS. MEETING HAD COME ABOUT AFTER BOG CABINET DECIDED MARCH 21 TO SEND SPECIAL EMISSARY TO KINSHASA BEARING MEMORANDUM FOR GOZ ON ZAIRIANIZATION, BELGIAN AID, AND BELGIAN-ZAIRIAN DIALOGUE. MEMORANDUM STIMULATED DISPATCH OF ZAIRIANS TO MALAGA. LEBRUN SAID THAT REPORT IN "SPECIAL" THAT TINDEMANS WOULD SOON GO TO ZAIRE WAS NOT TRUE. BELGIANS DID NOT HAVE ANY INFORMATION ON CONTACTS BY BULA AND BISENGIMANA WITH POSSIBLE CREDITORS DURING EUROPEAN TRIP.

4. LEBRUN DECLINED TO SPECULATE ON FUTURE OF KERREMANS, WHO DEPARTED KINSHASA ON "CONSULTATIONS" APRIL 2. HE COMMENTED, HOWEVER, THAT ZAIRIANS WERE "CONSUMING" BELGIAN AMBASSADORS AT ACCELERATED RATE, AND REVIEWED ZAIRIAN CHARGES AGAINST KERREMANS, ALREADY REPORTED BY EMBASSY KINSHASA. LEBRUN ADDED POINT THAT IN VIEW OF KERREMANS' PREVIOUS SERVICE AS CHAMBERLAIN TO KING BAUDOUIN, MOBUTU MAY HAVE THOUGHT THAT HAVING KERREMANS IN KINSHASA WOULD GIVE GOZ DIRECTLINE TO KING. WHEN STOPOVER BY KING IN ZAIRE DURING RECENT AFRICA TRIP FELL THROUGH, MOBUTO THUS MAY HAVE BLAMED KERREMANS. MOST IMPORTANTLY, IN BELGIAN VIEW, ZAIRIAN

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CRITICISM OF KERREMANS AND FOREIGN MINISTER VAN ELSLANDE MAY BE DESIGNED TO DELAY SERIOUS DISCUSSIONS WITH BELGIUM ON COMPENSATION FOR EXPROPRIATED PROPERTIES, ALTHOUGH LEBRUN INDICATED THAT GOZ HAD ALREADY AGREED TO BEGIN PAYING COMPENSATION FOR PART OF TAKEOVERS IN 1976. (WE INFER FROM COMMENTS OF LEBRUN AND OF OTHER BELGIANS IN SEPARATE CONVERSATIONS THAT KERREMANS MAY EVENTUALLY RETURN TO KINSHASA ONLY FOR PRO FORMA PERIOD BEFORE DEPARTING PERMANENTLY.)

5 REGARDING CONTRETEMPS OVER SPECIAL "TRANCHE" OF
300 MILLION BF IN EXPORT RISK GUARANTEES OFFERED
BY GOB THROUGH OFFICE DU DUCROIRE, WHICH GOZ REJECTED
(KINSHASA 2438), LEBRUN POINTED OUT THAT 300 MILLION IN
GUARANTEES HAD NO THEING TO DO WITH LINE OF CREDIT OF UP
TO 700 MILLION BF OFFERED BY GOB IN 1972. LINE OF CREDIT,
FOR WHICH NATIONAL BANKS OF BELGIUM AND ZAIRE NEVER WORKED
OUT MODALITIES, WAS FOR GENERAL IMPORTS AND NOT LIMITED
TO PHARMACEUTICALS AND FOODSTUFFS AS WAS 300 .MILLION BF
IN GUARANTEES. THUS ZAIRIANS ARE NOT TAKING
ADVANTAGE OF IMPORTANT IMPORT CREDITS. LEBRUN ALSO NOTED
THAT PUBLIC REPORTS ON SUSPENSION OF DUCRIORE'S
NORMAL GUARANTEES AND OFFERED OF SPECIAL TRANCE OF 300 MILLION BF
HAD EVIDENTLY COME FROM DUCRIORE SOURCES BUT
HAD NOT BEEN BASED ON DUCROIRE PRESS RELEASE AS BELIEVED
BY ZAIRIANS. HE ADDED THAT THERE ARE 20 MILLION BF IN
REQUESTS FOR DUCROIRE GUARANTEES OUTSTANDING.

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INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SAM-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

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R 151735Z APR 75

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3656

INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMCONSUL LUANDA

S E C R E T SECTION 2 OF 2 BRUSSELS 3342

6. FURTHER ON ZAIRIAN ECONOMY, BELGIANS DID NOT FEEL
PROSPECTIVE 250 MILLION DOLLAR LOAN WOULD ALLEVIATE A SHORT

TERM PROBLEM, IN VIEW OF TOTAL EXTERNAL DEPT OF 2.2 BILLION DOLLARS. THEY NOTED IN PASSING THAT 16 MILLION DOLLARS OF 50 MILLION DOLLAR LOAN FROM ABU DHABI ALREADY RECEIVED. LEBRUN ALSO SAID THAT BELGIAN BANKS ARE ACCEPTING FUNDS FOR PAYMENT OF CURRENT ORDERS FOR EXPORTS TO ZAIRE WITHOUT ATTACHING THEM FOR DEBTS ALREADY OWED (IN CONTRAST TO WALKER MEMO OF MARCH 20 ON GEMCAMINES ASSETS).

7. ON ZAIRIAN INTENAL AFFAIRS, BELGIANS NOTED SOME DISSATISFACTION WITH MOBUTU BUT HAD NO INDICATION OF REAL THREAT TO REGIME. THEY CITED REPORT OF PRIVATE CONVERSATION WITH PARACOMMANDO GENERAL BUMBA IN WHICH HE ALLEGEDLY CRITICIZED MOBUTU'S EXCESSES.

8. REGARDING PORTUGUESE TERRITORIES, BELGIANS SAID THEY DID NOT SEE THAT CONGO-BRAZZAVILLE WOULD HAVE MEANS OF
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TAKING OVER CABINDA WITHOUT COLLABORATION OF MOBUTU, WHICH THEY DID NOT SEE AS LIKELY. MPLA IS TOO STRONG FOR CONGO-BRAZZAVILLE ALONE. THEY ALSO NOTED GOZ IS STUDYING DOSSIER DATING FROM COLONIAL PERIOD (1958) ON DELIMITATION OF ZAIRE-CABINDA CONTENTAL SHELF. THEY READ THIS AS INDICATION THAT GOZ IS STUDYING PEACEFUL WAY TO ASSURE IT OBTAINS ACCEPTABLE PORTION OF OFFSHORE RESOURCES.

9. REFERRING TO MPLA PRESIDENT NETO'S RECENT VISIT TO BELGIUM (BRUSSELS 3153), BELGIANS SAID HE TOLD THEM THAT 1500 FNLA TROOPS, INCLUDING SOME MEMBERS OF ZAIRIAN ARMY, HAD MOVED INTO ANGOLA AT TIME OF RECENT CLASHES BUT HAD BEEN STOPPED BY PORTUGUESE MILITARY. HE HAD MAINTAINED, NEVERTHELESS, THAT ANGOLANS WOULD NOT NEED OUTSIDE HELP TO MAINTAIN ORDER. BELGIANS ALSO HAD REPORT OF FEW DAYS EARLIER FROM BELGIAN CONSUL IN LUBUMBASHI THAT ANGOLAN TROOPS WERE COMING INTO SHABA, BEING EQUIPPED AND ARMED, AND THEN RETURNED TO ANGOLA. BELGIANS NOTED THAT GOZ HAD REQUIRED BELGIAN MILITARY ASSISTANCE TEAMS TO WITHDRAW FROM ZAIRIAN BASES AT KITONA AND BANZA-NGUNGU BUT DID NOT KNOW WHAT CONNECTION THIS MIGHT HAVE WITH ANGOLA OR CABINA.
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